Go Team Rotary!

One of the most rewarding outcomes in D9640 this year is the willingness of our Clubs to work together to achieve good in the world.

In this edition of D9640 Matters, we report on how:

* Clubs cooperated to distribute Days for Girls Kits in Fiji [READ MORE]
* Clubs and Districts cooperated to raise funds for ophthalmology equipment to provide eye care in Vanuatu and other Pacific Island [READ MORE]
* Clubs cooperated to provide safe drinking water in Fiji and Cambodia
* Clubs combined to celebrate the birthday of Rotary
* Clubs work together to assist drought-affected farmers in the Charleville region.

TEAM ROTARY enables major projects to be undertaken without straining the resources of any one Rotary club, and the results speak for themselves.

Congratulations D9640.

Water water everywhere, but not a safe drop to drink

It’s ironic that in many countries with heavy rainfall, there are no reliable, safe water supplies.

We have two stories about D9640 Rotarians participating in Rotary projects in Cambodia and Fiji, where the most important requirement was to provide reliable and safe drinking water to then enable sustainable education and employment. [READ ABOUT CAMBODIA & FIJI]

This month’s Rotary theme is Water and Sanitation. At our district Conference at Ballina on 5–8 May, PRIP Bill Boyd will speak about the importance of the WASH program in schools.

REGISTER FOR D9640 CONFERENCE [HERE]

When Roz Irving heard that a container of medical and educational materials were being packed by Stanthorpe Rotary, she asked Vicki Jenkins of Mt Warning AM if there was a Days for Girls team in Fiji. The answer was YES.

Within four days Days for Girls packs from Mt Warning and Cleveland Rotary were packed into the container at D.I.K in Brisbane. Funds for transporting the container were provided by the Rotary Clubs of Glen Innes, Tenterfield, Goondiwindi, Stanhorpe and Warwick with matching funds from D9640.

PDG David Lee and Judy Lee then distributed these kits in Fiji. This a wonderful Rotary story, which again demonstrates the value adding of TEAM Rotary.

Report: Mt Warning NSW Days for Girls Chapter by PDG David & Judy Lee – February 2017

On 26 November 2016, 648 Days for Girls kits arrived at the Naiyala High School, Fiji in a 40ft. container packed with school related items donated by the Cluster 9 Group of Rotary Clubs in Rotary District 9640. On 28 November a RAWCS work party of 16 volunteers, organized by the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe, arrived at the school to work on a number of projects over the following 10 days. Team members returned home on 8 December except for PDG David Lee and Judy Lee who remained in Fiji for another 6 weeks. This extended time in Fiji enabled David & Judy (among other things) to seek out schools and villages in Fiji that they considered very needy recipients of the “Days for Girls” kits.

Distribution of the kits involved many phone calls and extensive travel. Where possible the kits were sorted into sizes and counted to suit the needs of receiving schools. The kits were distributed to 7 schools and 1 village on 3 different islands in Fiji. Three of these contacts (teachers) were previously members of the teaching staff at the Naiyala High School when some 300 kits were distributed in 2014.

The kits on that occasion were made by a Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe with other interested women.

Each person responsible for receiving the kits was informed by Judy of the necessity for them to educate each girl receiving a kit on how to use, care and maintain the kit.

Great interest was shown by many in Fiji who were made aware of the kits and expressed a genuine interest in wishing to receive a number of kits for their particular school. Unfortunately the kits available were limited and there is still a great need for them in Fiji.

Days for Girls kits arrive at D.I.K. (Brisbane) ready to be shipped to Fiji
The following details the distribution of the kits.

1. MAGODRO SECONDARY SCHOOL (45 kits)

This is a new secondary school in the interior of Ba at Bukuya. Judy and I were privileged to be invited guests to the opening of this school by the Prime Minister of Fiji on 11 January 2017. Also present was the Minister of Education together with other dignitaries. The kits were publically presented to the students in the presence of many village visitors, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education who showed great interest in the donation.

**Principal:** Alumita Ciwanacagi & Judy

**Presentation of kits to Mr. Timoci Bure – Deputy Secretary Primary/Secondary Education**

**Left:** Hon. Prime Minister of Fiji – Frank Bainimarama **Right:** Hon. Minister of Education – Dr. Mahendra Reddy

**PRINCIPAL:** Mrs. Alumita Ciwanacagi Bukuya  **Email:** magodrosecondary@yahoo.com  
Ba, Fiji  **Phone:** 0011 679 (Waiting for confirmation)

2. MOLOMALO PRIMARY SCHOOL (25 kits)

Ulamila (known as Bui) Rokomoce is a teacher at an International School in Nadi, Fiji run by a South Korean organization. Adjacent to the International School is Molomalo Primary School where Bui has a personal interest in the welfare of the students. Bui was delighted to receive some kits for girls in the village who attend the Molomalo Primary School.

**CONTACT:**  
Ulamila Rokomoce Lot 61 Neefield  
LegalegaNadi, Fiji  
**Phone:** 0011 679 9076 200  **Email:** bulouulamila@yahoo

3. NAIYALA HIGH SCHOOL (160 kits)

The Naiyala High School has approx. 220 students – about 22 girls are boarders. The school is surrounded by 7 primary village schools that feed into the High School. Students at each of the primary schools come from one of the villages near the school.

Miriam Nand is H.D. Geography and English and has taught at the school for 5 years. She travelled with students from the school to Stanthorpe on the first year of the Exchange Program initiated by the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe in 2013. She was involved with the distribution of feminine hygiene kits forwarded to the school by the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe in 2014.
4. BALLANTINE MEMORIAL SCHOOL (323 kits) Ballantine is situated at Lami, approx. 15 mins. out of Suva. It is an all girls' school with 681 students – 194 students are boarders.

Salome Bulewa is H.D. Home Economics and has been at the school for 12 months. Previous to her appointment to Ballantine she was H.D. Home Ec. at the Naiyala High School. While at Naiyala she accompanied students to Stanthorpe on the Exchange program and returned with 300 feminine hygiene kits made by a Rotarian of the Stanthorpe Rotary Club with a group of friends. Salome is well versed with the “Days for Girls” kits and will do an excellent job distributing them to the boarders at the school.

CONTACT: Salome Bulewa Ballantine Memorial School Email: ballantineschool@gmail.com P.O. Box 432 Suva, Fiji Phone: 0011 679 3362 799 / 3363 501

5. MARIST CHAMPAGNAT INSTITUTE (10 kits) A Unique Solution to an Educational Gap

Each year there are several hundred young people throughout Fiji who leave primary school with no hope of coping with the secondary curriculum because they do not have the basic knowledge and skills required for entry into that system. These students have a mix of disabilities: learning, physical, emotional e.g. ASD, epilepsy, Down Syndrome, brain damage, behavioural problems, intellectual handicaps. Marist Champagnat Institute is the only POST-PRIMARY SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL in Fiji.

PRINCIPAL: Tepola Sogotubu Marist Champagnat Institute
Nakelo Street Suva, Fiji Phone: 0011 679 9238 266 Email: tsogotubu@yahoo.com
6. DREKETI CENTRAL COLLEGE (50 kits) Situated on the northern island of Vanua Levu, Dreketi Central College has an enrolment of 346 students including 18 female boarders. Principal is Emosi Kuli who has been at the school for 2 years having previously been the principal at the Naiyala High School. In 2014 Emosi was part of the Student Exchange Program between the Naiyala High School and St. Joseph’s High School, Stanthorpe. Emosi has introduced many new ideas to his schools as a result of that exchange experience and was principal of the Naiyala High School when a quantity of feminine hygiene kits were sent to his school by the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe in 2014.

![Overlooking the Dreketi Central College at Dreketi on Vanu Levu](image)

**Principal:** Emosi Kuli

**PRINCIPAL:** Emosi Kuli
**Dreketi Macuata Fiji**
**Phone:** 0011.679 8319 778 / 8283 944
**Email:** kuliemosi@yahoo.com

7. SQUANI HIGH SCHOOL
This school is on the northern island of Vanua Levu near Savusavu. It is adjacent to the village that Salome comes from (Ballantine School). Salome intends to share some of her kits with this school.

8. MOALA HIGH SCHOOL (35 kits) Situated on Moala Island 140 klm. south east of Suva the High School has 100 students – including 18 female boarders. Principal is Sanjelesh Nand who taught at the school for 12 months as vice principal – promoted to principal late last year. Previous to teaching at Moala, Sanjelesh taught at the Naiyala High School for 5 years and was part of the Student Exchange program from Naiyala High School to St. Joseph’s High School in 2014. Because of his previous connection with the Naiyala school he is familiar with the “Days for Girls” concept.

![Overlooking Yasayasa Moala College on Moala Island, Fiji](image)

**Principal:** Sanjelesh Nand accepting the kits

**PRINCIPAL:** Sanjelsh Nand Yasayasa Moala College
**Nami Village Suva, Fiji**
**Phone:** 0011.679 7449 994
**Email:** sanjelesh_32@yahoo.com / tsogotubu@yahoo.com
Broadbeach and D9640 successful global grant

On Sunday 5 February almost $100,000 worth of specialist ophthalmology equipment was presented to the Eye Health Clinic aboard Mercy Ship the MV Pacific Hope in the port of Tauranga.

The Rotary Club of Tauranga (D9930 NZ) and its sister clubs Kasaoka (D2690 Japan) and Broadbeach (D9640 Australia) successfully raised sufficient funds to achieve a grant of almost $40k from The Rotary Foundation by way of a global grant. The efforts of the three clubs were supported by District Designated Funds contributed by each of the respective districts including $5k from D9640.

MV Pacific Hope (based in Tauranga) is operated by Marine Reach Ministries, an international humanitarian organisation that provides free of charge dental, eye health and general medical services and community development activities to the Islands of the Pacific Ocean where such services would otherwise not be available.

These photos were taken in Tauranga. The first photo shows Immediate Past President Bill Rex and District Rotary Foundation Chair Neil Jones with the Marine Reach ship MV Pacific Hope, while the second shows some of the ophthalmology equipment purchased with the Global Grant.

http://www.mercyships.org.au
Sustainable Cambodia

Sustainable Cambodia (www.sustainablecambodia.org) is a multi-faceted program started and sustained by Rotarian Richard Allen (Rotary Club of Gainsborough, USA) and his wife Susan, and is now supported by a number of Australian Rotary Clubs, including Lismore West and Summerland Sunrise from our District 9640 through RAWCS.

Sustainable Cambodia (SC) works with the families of rural Cambodian villages in the Pursat Province to help them achieve sustainability and self-sufficiency through wells, irrigation systems, schools, training and empowerment.

Cambodian village families have been slowly rebuilding their lives after the Khmer Rouge genocide, but Cambodia remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Rural areas of Cambodia still face severe poverty, lack of health care, and low levels of education, economic opportunity, and resources.

Initial assessments showed that clean drinking water was critical to improving health, particularly in young children. Villagers quickly understood the problem and contributed to each well by digging the first 10 metres by hand followed by a drill rig organised by Sustainable Cambodia to the required depth for good water, usually around 90 metres in this area. The hand pump was installed and the well capped. These deep wells supply several family groups and are highly valued.

To ensure drinking water is at potable water standards, a Canadian Rotary group designed a bio-sand filter (See the blue unit) and individual homes have been supplied with one of these. In some areas a shallower well is sufficient but the water needs to be put through the bio-sand filter for safe drinking water.
The next challenge was for water for irrigation during the long dry spell (up to 5 months) so that nutrition could be improved. Before SC, families existed through the dry on a diet of rice and more rice that had been grown during the wet season. Families needed water to establish vegetable gardens so SC helped set up a series of village ponds. The villagers negotiated with SC to dig the ponds by hand and were paid the hire fee for an excavator. These ponds fill during the wet and are also being used for aquaculture as another protein source.

Another problem area was the almost complete lack of toilets. Most village people would simply dig a small hole to bury their waste. SC helps families set up a type of septic system that can cope with the inundation that occurs during the wet, and includes training on the related hygiene issues.

Being a subsistence economy, all of the able bodied family members need to work in the small family plots. This led to a request to establish what we would call pre-school facilities so that the mothers could work their plots. So SC helped set up these pre-schools and included a nutritious meal into the program.

There is a limited half-day government school system in the Pursat Provence but many families were not sending their children to school, preferring to have them carry water and other farm duties. Under SC, a primary and secondary school system has been established, including teachers, to provide a proper education for these selected rural children. Older students from these schools are now at university in Phnom Penh, a truly remarkable achievement.

The SC program needs to be thought of as a holistic package of inter-related programs. All the parts are the subject of detailed training and follow up. It needs commitment from the villagers to send their kids to school, and some ownership of the wells, dams and gardens through their in-kind contributions.

SC is not an "aid" program. The mantra is "to give a hand up, not a hand out". It is working!
NAIYALA HIGH SCHOOL Fiji

In Dec 2015, a RAWCS team organised by the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe, installed a new submersible borehole pump at a depth of 55 metres at the Naiyala School. The bore was made possible by a grant received from the Australian High Commission in Fiji. Water is pumped from the bore to 3 tanks and then reticulated to the school. Stage 1 supplied water for drinking and hand washing only. During the recent visit in November 2016, 15 teacher residences were connected to the bore supply. A plentiful supply of excellent quality water is now available for all domestic use.

Water was also connected to the school agricultural plot, which will assist the production of fruit and vegetables for the students. Following the devastation of Cyclone Winston the recently equipped bore was the sole water supply for the school and many villages in the area. In addition to installing this bore, Rotarians have instructed Fijians on how to maintain all irrigation fittings and pumps to ensure a sustainable source of safe drinking water.
Stanthorpe Rotary struts their stuff

Stanthorpe Rotary decided to do their Purple Pinky days in the new school year rather than last year.

Their Foundation Chair, Fran Hodgson, went to the Stanthorpe State primary School and spread the word and raised modest funds. They have another half a dozen smaller primary schools in the district and will be visiting those in the coming months.

Fran is also Chair of the Club’s Busking@Stanthorpe Committee and has spent the last two weeks working on that project. It was a great event on Saturday with a few funds raised and the town full of visitors and performers. More importantly, it was a terrific local PR for Stanthorpe Rotary as Club members were seen around the town in their Rotary shirts.

This photo goes to show that service Clubs DO work together, ie Lions helping Rotary!
Raising the Spirits: D9640 Returns to Charleville

My fellow Rotarians,

You will be aware that DG Michael has asked me to lead a team of Rotarians and volunteers back to Charleville from March 23–31 to complete jobs on properties that were not accessible because of floods. I would like to give you an update of our preparations for this trip.

Because it rained in September, many people think that the drought is over. I can assure you that around Charleville it is not! There are many areas around Charleville who received very little rain. In the February edition of the Rotary District 9630 DG’s newsletter there is a detailed report from that District’s Drought Appeal and Relief Committee. This report confirmed that in Charleville “they still have pockets and areas in dire need. Those who completely destocked are still experiencing financial hardship as the cattle prices etc. are proving prohibitive. This coupled with debt is not helping.”

In this report a Rural Financial Counsellor noted that the financial assistance provided by Rotary, and the Rotary/Outback Links/QANTAS/RACQ assistance has been some of the most practical and the best received assistance we have been able to provide during these difficult years. “The gratitude from these recipients has been enormous.” I can confirm from my recent visits that this is true. So you can appreciate why we would like to complete our tasks.

In January I travelled to Charleville to visit properties to scope projects for our return trip. I toured these properties with John Jones, our man on the ground in Charleville, and have subsequently devised a schedule of jobs. As Outback Links will be undertaking projects in Cunnamulla in March, we have organised our own program. All goods and services will be sourced from Charleville suppliers so that we can support the local businesses. We have received additional funding from Woden Valley and Glen Innes Rotary, and we have a team of volunteers briefed and ready to go.

What we need most is 4–5 more volunteers to ensure that we can complete all our tasks. If you have ever contracted a builder to build a house, you will know how unforeseen factors can slow down progress. With a few more volunteers this will ensure that we have enough person–power to complete our tasks. Some additional financial support will also give us the buffer should problems arise.

Apart from working on properties, we plan to continue painting the interior of the Charleville museum. This will enhance this museum as a tourist attraction for visitors to Charleville.

All of us who went to Charleville in September regarded the trip as one of the best Rotary projects that we had participated in, and with your help, we are certain that we will “Raise the Spirits” for needy people in this drought–affected area.

John McKenny
Project Co–ordinator
0427 323133
jsmck@bigpond.net.au
1300 3 ROTARY is now D9640’s public contact telephone number for all clubs in our District. That’s 1300 3768 279

When callers dial this number they will be connected to an experienced Rotarian who will answer any generic questions about Rotary.

For questions in relation to a particular club or potential membership, the caller will be directed to the specific club through the District directory. The experienced Rotarian will follow up within 24 hours to ensure the caller has been in contact with the club.

Charges for the 1300 number will be paid through the District’s PR budget.

Clubs are encouraged to publicise this number.
Rotary youth programs are appreciated

DG Michael attended the meeting of the Southport Satellite Club at Griffith University on Thursday 2 March.

Ten new prospective members were welcomed to the Club. These prospective members were recruited during orientation week at the University. What impressed all attending was that nearly all of the prospective members had been involved in Interact, RYPEN, RYTS and NYSF, and they wanted to continue their involvement with Rotary.

For all our hard working youth teams, well done!

The Rotary message is alive and well.
Scenic Rim Rotarians celebrate Rotary’s birthday

Each year one of the scenic rim Rotary Clubs hosts a dinner to celebrate the founding of Rotary. This year Jimboomba hosted a dinner at the Hills College with a guest speaker from Heart of Australia.

President David Kenny is seem handing over the mantle to President Ross McInnes and President-elect Scott Champion of Fassifern Valley Rotary to host the birthday dinner in 2018.
Happy birthday Allora Rotary

Allora Rotary celebrated its 50th birthday on February 18 with a luncheon in the Allora community hall. Over 110 guests were present with strong representation from the Rotary Clubs of Boonah, Warwick, Warwick Sunrise and Stanthorpe.

Three charter members were present including President Bill Lester who welcomed all guests. Past President Graham Hoey proposed the toast to Rotary International, and Assistant Governor Peter Truer proposed the toast to the Rotary Club of Allora.

DG Michael responded to the toast to Rotary International, and presented a letter of congratulations from RI President John Germ. Community singing is a proud tradition of Allora Rotary, which was led enthusiastically by Club Treasurer Robyn Draper.

Happy birthday Allora Rotary.
Does Rotarian John McKenny ever sleep?

Not only is John McKenny busy organising the next “Raising the Spirits” trip to Charleville, he found time to organise graffiti removal in Glen Innes. Congratulations John on a job well done!

Graffiti Removal Day Thank You Function

The Minister for Police and Minister for Emergency Services, the Honourable Troy Grant, along with the NSW Attorney General, the Honourable Mark Speakman, were two special attendees who praised the work done in towns throughout New South Wales during Graffiti Removal Day recently. Over one hundred volunteers attended the function at the NSW Parliament House to receive congratulations from several top officials.

Groups of volunteers included the staff of several councils, air force cadets, church groups and families, but the greatest representation came from the many Rotary Clubs in the state that had been removing graffiti since the commencement of this initiative. During the speeches, it was emphasised that “graffiti is not art but a criminal act and at times an invasion of a person’s privacy”.

John McKenny, representing Glen Innes Rotary Club and the teams of members who joined in on Graffiti day, said that there were five teams who went to work on identified sites around our town, and in four hours, had removed or covered almost all the graffiti in the Glen Innes township.

He said “It was an excellent effort and outstanding success. The whole clean-up state wide had the total support and sponsorship from Dulux Paints, resulting in the activity being free of expense to our club and council.”

In this photo, John is discussing the success of the recent NSW Graffiti Removal Day with the Honourable Mark Speakman, NSW Attorney General and the Honourable Natasha Maclaren-Jones, Member Legislative Assembly at Parliament House.
Bill Gates to give keynote address in Atlanta

Bill Gates will be the keynote speaker at Rotary International’s 108th international convention at the RI convention in Atlanta from 10–14 June. Gates will be one among a lineup of world-class speakers.

The Gates Foundation and Rotary International have an ongoing match of 2:1 to support polio eradication efforts up to $35 million a year. Bill says that he spent more time last year on polio eradication than anything else and is quick to praise Rotary’s work. READ MORE

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**Melinda:** Those 37 cases were confined to northern Nigeria and parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Honestly, Warren, we thought polio would be over by now. But immunizing children in conflict areas is hard—and dangerous. We’re awed by the teams of vaccinators who take risks to reach each child. And we’re inspired by the infinite persistence of Rotary International. They were leading this fight long before we joined it, and they’ve just kept moving forward. They know that going from 350,000 cases to 37 is amazing, but success is zero.

**Bill:** It’s thrilling to be nearing the day when no children will be crippled by polio. But we’re often asked why we’re making such a big effort on polio if our priority is to save lives. The answer is, ending polio will save lives—through the magic of zero. When polio is eradicated, the world can dedicate polio funds to improving child health, and the lessons from polio will lead to better immunization systems for other diseases.

**Melinda:** And the world will benefit from the electrifying effect of ending a disease. The surge of optimism will draw energy and brains and dollars into global health, and that will intensify the fight against measles, malaria, TB, and AIDS.